

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5416

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR TU SG XF XA

SUBJ: VISIT OF HABIB BOURGUIBA TO SENEGAL

1. TWO AND ONE-HALF DAY VISIT OF PRESIDENT HABIB BOURGUIBA TO SENEGAL REACHED CLIMAX YESTERDAY WITH OFFICIAL LUNCH HOSTED BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND ISSUANCE IN AFTERNOON OF JOINT SENEGALESE-TUNISIA RCOMMUNIQUE. BOURGUIBA WHO LEAVES DAKAR THIS MORNING WAS NOT GIVEN NEARLY THE PUBLICITY HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY RECEIVED EARLIER THIS MONTH NOR DID SENEGAESE TURN OUT IN SAME NUMBERS TO SEE TUNISIAN LEADER.

2. BLAND NATURE OF VISIT CONFIRMED BY COMMUNIQUE WHICH CONTAINED LITTLE BESIDES RITUALISTIC ENDORSEMENT OF AFRICAN-ARAB SOLIDARITY, COUPLED WITH A DEMAND FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM AR*B TERR*T RY; ENCOURAGEMENT OF AFRICAN LIBERATION OVEMENTS; AND DENUNCIATION OF DETERIORATION OF TERMS OF TRADE*FOR UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES. C*MMUNIQUE HOWEVER, DI SPECIFY THAT THE
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COLL*QWIM ON AFRICAN SOCIALISM PROPOSED BY BOURGUIBA WAS BEING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1975.

A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE IS TO ORGANIZE THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN SOCIALIST PARTIES. COMMUNIQUE ALSO SPECIFIED THAT MIXED TUNISIAN-SENEGALESE COMMISSION WOULD MEET IN MARCH 1974 TO EXAMINE BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS AS WELL AS RELATIONS WITH EEC. CULTURAL COOPERATION IS ALSO TO BE EXPANDED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. IN LUNCHEON REMARKS SENGHOR STRONGLY PUSHED THEME AFRICAN-ARAB COOPERATION ESPECIALLY AS IT PRESAGES COOPERATION TO END RACISM IN AFRICA. HE PROPOSED AS WELL A EURAFRICAN COMMUNITY WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE AFRICAN STATES EVEN INCLUDING THOSE IN "ASIA MONOR". HE CONTINUED WITH CALL FOR A "GRAND PALESTINIAN STATE" UNITING ALL RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN PALESTINE WHO COULD THEN DEVELOP THEIR "SEMITITE" BUT CONCEDED THAT FOR MOMENT A FEDERATION OF TWO NEIGHBORING STATES IN THE PALESTINE AREA MIGHT BE MORE PRACTICAL. WHILE RECEPTIVE THESE GRAND IDEAS, BOURGUIBA WAS MUCH MORE VAGUE AND NOT VERY EXPANSIVE IN HIS REMARKS. HE MADE POINT HOWEVER, OF THANKING SENEGAL ON BEHALF OF ARABS FOR ITS JUST POSITION IN ARAB-ISRAELI CRISIS.

4. DOUBTFUL THAT BOURGUIBA VISIT DID ANY MORE THAN CONFIRM WITH RHETORIC ARAB-AFRICAN ALLIANCE WHICH BEING FORMED ELSEWHERE AS A RESULT OF OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED FOR LOG-TOLLING ON MIDDLE-EAST AND AFRICAN ISSUES.
AGGREY

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